

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 094652
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-01 H-01
SSM-03 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /106 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----117327 130747Z /14

O 130101Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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PAGE 02 STATE 094652

USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS WASHDC 0094
CIA WASHDC 0119
ICA
NSC WASHDC 0081

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 12, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 12. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ISRAELI
PULL BACK FROM SOUTH LEBANON?
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PAGE 03 STATE 094652

A. THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONSISTENT
SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 425 IN ALL
ITS ASPECTS: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, UNIFIL TO COME INTO THE
AREA, AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO SPEED
THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT REGION. WE
NATURALLY WELCOME ALL PROGRESS TOWARD THE REALIZATION OF
THIS OBJECTIVE AND EXPECT THE MOMENTUM OF ISRAELI WITH-
DRAWAL TO INCREASE IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

OUR INFORMATION IS THAT UNIFIL IS BUILDING ITS PRESENCE IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON. ITS DEPLOYMENT IS GOING SMOOTHLY. IN
THIS RESPECT WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE ARRIVAL IN THE AREA OF

A NEPALESE CONTINGENT WHICH WILL BE MOVING INTO POSITION
IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

Q. HOW LARGE A CONTINGENT IS THAT?

A. ON BACKGROUND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT APPROXIMATELY
600 NEPALESE WILL BE MOVING INTO THE AREA.

Q. WHICH WOULD BRING THE TOTAL TO WHAT?

A. STILL ON BACKGROUND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE 1850 THERE NOW AND WE WOULD ADD THE 600 FROM NEPAL TO THAT FIGURE.

Q. DID THE ISRAELIS TELL YOU THAT THE MOMENTUM OF WITHDRAWAL WOULD INCREASE IN DAYS AHEAD?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, MARVIN. AS I SAID REPEATEDLY UP HERE, WE HAVE BEEN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ABOUT IT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT SPECIFIC ASSERTION WAS MADE BY THE ISRAELIS.
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PAGE 04 STATE 094652

Q. I MEAN DO YOU HOPE THAT THE MOMENTUM WOULD INCREASE? YOU EXPECT IT PRESUMES THAT YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I BELIEVE THE WORD I USED WAS WE EXPECT IT TO INCREASE AND WE HOPE THAT RESOLUTION 425 WILL BE COMPLIED WITH IN ALL ITS RESPECTS, INCLUDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THAT RESOLUTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE094652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780158-0966
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780459/aaaabxpu.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a5ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2973127
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 12, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a5ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014